

937.
Urban District of Caerphilly.



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Annual Report

1943.

W. R. NASH, M R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

Printed by Order of the Sanitary Authority;

WALTER ELLIS & SON, Printers & Stationers,
The Twyn, Caerphilly.



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COMMITTEES.

Health, Hospital, Public Cleansing and Plans Committee.

Chairmen—

HEALTH	—	—	Councillor D. I. Edmunds.
HOSPITAL	—	—	Alderman E. Phillips.
PUBLIC CLEANSING	—	—	Councillor E. Lewis.
PLANS	—	—	Councillor E. Morgan.

Members—

Councillor W. F. Rowland.
„ E. Phillips.
„ (Mrs.) Sargent.
„ D. I. Edmunds.
„ (Mrs.) Harris.
„ E. Morgan.
„ Edwin Lewis.
„ R. H. Malyn.

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee

*Chairman—*Councillor (Mrs) Harris.

Members —

Councillor (Mrs) Harris.
„ J. Beddoe.
„ T. Edwards.
„ (Mrs.) E. J. Jones.
„ W. H. Malyn
„ E. Brinson.
„ J. Roach,
„ T. R. Davies.
„ W. Howard,
„ D. P. Thomas.
„ J. Roberts.
„ G. George
„ G. Smith
„ (Mrs) Sargent.
„ E. Morgan.
„ T. Jenkins.
„ E. Phillips.

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Mrs. H. Evans, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Povey, Mrs. H. Williams,
Mrs. S.G. Jones, Mrs. K. Hughes, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Nash.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health

W. R. NASH, N.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer (part time)—

J. S. BRIGGS, M.B.

Consultant Medical Staff for Maternity and Child Welfare
 Obstetrics — Professor GILBERT D. STRACHAN.
 Paediatrics — A. G. WATKINS, M.D., F.R.C.P.
 Orthopaedic — A. O. PARKER, M.D., C.M.

Sanitary Inspectors—

A.B. W. LLOYD JONES

A.B. W. R. LIDDINGTON.

Inspector of Petroleum and Explosives—

A.B. W. LLOYD JONES.

Health Visitors—

C.E.F. P. THOMAS

A.C.E.F. C. THOMAS.

C.E.F. T. NOLAN.

Matron, Isolation Hospital.

C.D.E. K. OWENS.

Clerical Staff.

R McLEOD

A. LEWIS.

- A Sanitary Inspector's Certificate.
- B. Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate.
- C. State Registered Nurse
- D State Registered Fever Nurse.
- E. Certificate of Central Midwives' Board.
- F. Health Visitor's Certificate.

CAERPHILLY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

*Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Caerphilly.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Caerphilly Urban District Council.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, I herewith beg to submit an abbreviated Annual Report for the year 1943

As the report for 1942 was not fully comprehensive, so is the one for 1943, but all details remain available for a complete survey of the whole war period.

On ground of national security the Registrar-General has requested that complete tables of local populations, or quotations from the figures supplied by him, which may enable any substantial series of local population to be reconstructed, should be omitted from the Annual Report. Further, no reference may be made to the activities in connection with war-time industrial, military, or other important developments in the area. Hence the only statistics to be found in the report for this year are the actual number of births, deaths, infantile and maternal deaths; number of cases of infectious diseases notified and their fatality rates.

Two War Time Nurseries were opened, one at Senghenydd and another at Tonyfelin Vestry, Caerphilly.

I again express my thanks to the whole of the Public Health Staff for their loyal co-operation.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. R. NASH,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (Land)	—	—	12,931 Acres
Population (Census 1931)	—	—	
Population Estimated Mid-1941	—	—	
Number of Houses Erected in 1941	—	—	Nil
Total Number of Inhabited Houses	—	—	7,600
Estimated Number of Persons per occupied House			
Rateable Value	—	—	£108,858
Estimated Product of Id. Rate	—	—	£443
Live Births (Registered)	—	—	760
Birth Rate per 1,000	—	—	
Deaths	—	—	445
Death Rate per 1,000	—	—	
Excess of Births over Deaths	—	—	344
Deaths under one year	—	—	48
Rate per 1,000 Live Births	—	—	
Deaths of Women in Child-birth :—			
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Live Births.</i>	
Puerperal Causes			
Sepsis	—	Nil	
Other Causes	1		

I must draw attention to the discrepancy between the vital statistics supplied by the Registrar General through the County Council, and those obtained from direct notification.

The number of Infantile Deaths transferable and otherwise are invariably correct, but for two or three years the number of births registered with the Registrar and the number of births notified to me through the midwives are at great variance.

For the year under review, the figure supplied by the Registrar General is 679 births whereas the number of births actually notified to this office, total 789, of which 29 were still births.

The number of Infantile deaths under one year, transferable and otherwise according to our records is 48, yet the figure supplied by the Registrar General is 51.

One of the most important indices of the general well being of a district is the Infant Mortality rate which is the rate per 1,000 Live Births of children who have died before reaching the age of one year. The Registrar General gives an Infant Mortality Rate for Caerphilly of 75, whereas according to our records this figure should read 63. The explanation may lie in the fact that all births belonging to the area are not transferred, i.e. births in Maternity Homes, Nursing Homes etc., or parents are not implementing their obligation to register births with the Registrar. With such a discrepancy a false picture is presented.

I would again stress the very low Maternal Mortality Death Rate which is in large measure due to the active Ante-Natal work conducted in your area.

DEATHS FROM VARIOUS CAUSES,

		MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Typhoid and Parat. Fevers	....	0	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	....	2	1	3
Scarlet Fever	....	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	....	0	0	0
Diphtheria	....	0	1	1
Tuberculosis, Respiratory System	....	13	10	23
Tuberculosis, other Causes	....	1	6	7
Syphilitic Diseases	....	2	0	2
Influenza	....	2	1	3
Measles	....	0	1	1
Acute Polio-myel. and Polio-enceph.	....	0	0	0
Acute Inf. enceph.	....	0	0	0
Cancer of b. cav. and oesoph. (M)				
uterus (F.)	....	3	4	7
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	....	10	9	19
Cancer of Breast	....	0	5	5
Cancer of other sites	....	22	8	30
Diabetes	....	1	3	4
Intra-cran. vacs. lesions	....	13	16	29
Heart Disease	....	59	32	91
Other Disease of Circulatory System	....	8	4	12
Bronchitis	....	18	9	27
Pneumonia	....	11	9	20
Other Respiratory Diseases	....	5	3	8
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	....	2	0	2
Diarrhoea, under 2 years	....	1	1	2
Appendicitis	....	1	0	1
Other Digestive Diseases	....	5	4	9
Nephritis	....	3	3	6
Puer. and Post-abort. Sepsis	....	0	0	0
Other Maternal Causes	....	0	1	1
Premature Birth	....	6	8	14
Con, Mal Birth Inj., Infant. Diseases	....	6	5	11
Suicide	....	1	3	4
Road Traffic Accidents	....	3	2	5
Other Violent Causes	....	11	3	14
All other Causes	....	53	31	84
		262	183	445

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

(A) Laboratory Facilities.

The County and City Public Health Laboratories at Cardiff continued to serve the area during the year. The examination of diphtheria swabs, cerebro-spinal fluid, virulence tests and examination of milk and water samples, comprised most of the work submitted. The total cost of this service was £93.

(B) Ambulance Facilities.

The position is as reported in the report for the previous year. The cost of providing ambulances for street accidents and the conveying of maternity cases to Cardiff Royal Infirmary, Llwynypia Hospital, and Gwaunfarren Maternity Home was £20.

The majority of expectant mothers are conveyed to the above Institutions by car and payment for the car is usually included in the bill submitted to them for treatment and consequently the amount involved as the responsibility of the Council is very small. However, I must again stress the need of a municipal ambulance for these cases, cases of ordinary sickness and street accidents. Many people subscribe to ambulances at their place of employment or sponsored by the Red Cross or St. John. Often these ambulances are refused for maternity cases. I would therefore ask the Council to consider again the provision of a general purposes ambulance.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

The various Nursing Associations employ a trained nurse for their members, and the position is as in previous years.

During the year under review most of the Associations received a subscription of £5 for work connected with evacuees.

(D) Treatment Centres and Clinics.

As in previous Annual Reports.

(E) Hospitals—Public and Voluntary.

As in Annual Report for 1942.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

(1) Maternity Services.

These remained as for the past three years, with the attendances at Anti-Natal Clinics still showing a slight increase.

The Infantile Mortality Rate has been referred to under vital statistics, but by far the larger number of these deaths are due to Prematurity (14), Convulsions (15) and Broncho-Pneumonia (10). In many cases these Infantile deaths are avoidable. Deaths from Broncho-Pneumonia and Convulsions are often due to lack of care and knowledge.

It would appear that many of these premature babies could be saved if a baby hospital was available. Ten hospital beds reserved for this purpose would reduce this serious cause of infantile mortality to negligible proportions.

I am also of opinion that we cannot altogether exclude the use of noxious drugs as abortifacients in causing the condition of prematurity, in addition to damaging the maternal health.

Provision of Milk, etc.

As the Ministry of Food deal exclusively with the issue of Fresh Milk to expectant and Nursing Mothers and Children under five years, no expenditure in fresh milk was incurred during the year. The Ministry of Food also provide Dried Infant Food, but it does happen that this food is not universally suitable for all infants, and the Council continue to supply an alternative choice. Arrangements are made whereby the Ministry of Food sell and issue dried food at the same clinics and time as the Council. Food stuffs such as Horlicks' Malted Milk, Virol, Ovaltine, are also available and these have been of great value to expectant and nursing mothers. Simple medicines are supplied free of charge.

Dental treatment for nursing and expectant mothers could not be provided by the service of the County Education Committee due entirely to staffing difficulties. Approach was therefore made to Dental Surgeons in the area with a view to admitting nursing and expectant mothers to a scheme whereby they would obtain treatment and dentures at the same rate as those supplied to patients under National Health Insurance. A scale is provided while the cost is considerably more than that applicable under County Council arrangements still shows considerable benefit to the recipients. The cost of this service was £10.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT.

Children requiring orthopaedic treatment are seen at the school orthopaedic clinics of the Education Committee of the Glamorgan County Council. Appliances prescribed are obtained from the Prince of Wales Hospital, Cardiff, and supplied free if the income of the home warrants it. In the event of in-patient treatment being required, the child is admitted to this hospital and all maintenance charges borne by the Council. The cost of this service to the Council in the year under review for the Prince of Wales Hospital was £42.

The County Council Charge 7/6 per case dealt with at their clinic and the cost of this was £40.

CONSULTANT & HOSPITAL MATERNITY FACILITIES.

During the year 16 cases were referred for consultation to Prof. Strachan and 15 complicated cases were admitted to Cardiff Royal Infirmary Maternity Wards. Increasing use was made of the Gwaunfaeren Maternity Home, Merthyr. During the year 111 cases were admitted and the use of this home has been of very great value.

EAR NOSE AND THROAT CLINICS.

Staffing difficulties have again interfered with the County Council arrangements for this work, and through no fault of the Education Committee it has been found impossible to have facilities for the removal of Tonsils and Adenoids. A very few cases have been seen at Llwynypia Hospital but the demand far exceeds existing arrangements. Arrangements have now been made with the Caerphilly and District Miners' Hospital for Examination and removal of Tonsils and Adenoids.

OTHER SERVICES.

Other services provided by the Council under the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee are Home Helps, treatment of defective vision and X-Ray facilities.

GENERAL SANITATION.**Water Supply.**

During the year five water samples were taken. All were satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage.

As in previous years.

Rivers and Streams.

As in previous years.

Cesspits and Closet Accommodation.

During the year cesspits were cleaned at a cost of £15 10s 0d. This marked reduction is due to the connection of the Garth Engineering Works, Taffs Well, to the Council sewer, and thus the sum of £250 contributed by the Council in 1941 is an excellent investment when it is realised that the cleaning of cesspits cost the Council in previous years an average sum of £20 per annum.

Public Cleansing.

The position is substantially unchanged.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Inspections made under the Public Health Act	—	1538
Investigations and visits in cases of infectious Disease	—	394
Revisits to Unabated Nuisances	—	2005
Premises Disinfected	—	406

The following visits and inspections were made in connection with the following :—

Water Supply	—	497
Drainage	—	1002
Stables and Piggeries	—	96
Offensive Trades	—	13

Fried Fish Shops	—	—	27
Common Lodging Houses	—	—	12
Tents, Vans and Sheds	—	—	81
Factories	—	—	943
Bakehouses	—	—	82
Public Conveniences	—	—	203
Places of Entertainment	—	—	70
Refuse Collection	—	—	1517
Rats and Mice Destruction	—	—	276
Schools	—	—	74
Shops	—	—	1873
Miscellaneous Visits	—	—	1596

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

The process of eradication remains as in previous years, but an additional problem has arisen through the large number of people sleeping away from home in the Civil Defence Services, Fire Watching, etc. One such person from a verminous home will very rapidly infest blankets and wood in a room with bugs. Although not the responsibility of this Council, every effort is being made to disinfect blankets at the Isolation Hospital when possible, and to advise in the eradication of the vermin.

Schools.

As in previous years.

Scabies and Impetigo.

The Cleansing Station at 1, Market Street, Caerphilly, continued to do excellent work. The clinic for adult males was extended to two sessions weekly and has proved of great benefit. Cases were referred from clinics, private Medical practitioners, schools, etc., and over the year over 6,000 treatments were given.

Housing.

It is with regret that I have to express the opinion that the standard of housing of your area has again deteriorated. Repairs cannot be undertaken and there is little doubt that gross over-crowding is taking place in every ward.

The industrial position in the area after the war must be considered, but even with the most pessimistic view possible, 800 houses are a minimum to restore the position to anything approximating that of 1939.

Temporary Dwellings.

Visited during the year	—	81
Demolished	—	Nil
Vacant at the end of the year	—	Nil
Total number remaining at end of year		89

Milk Supply.

Number of Cowsheds in the area	96
Number of inspections to Cowsheds	222
Number of Dairies in the area	117
Number of inspections of Dairies	295

The number of samples taken during the year was 58 by your Sanitary Inspectors, 4 by the Police and 13 by the County Council, making a total of 75.

The following is licensed to produce and sell Tuberculin Tested Milk :—

Mr. A. E. Edmunds, Ty Isaf Farm, Caerphilly.

There are also three producers of Accredited Milk :—

Messrs. J. & G. Phillips, Garth Farm, Abertridwr.

Mr. E. Thomas, Pen-y-Waun Farm, Nelson.

Mr. A. E. Pritchard, Energlyn Farm, Caerphilly.

Inspection of Meat and other Foods.

There are no licensed slaughtermen in the area, four continue to pay their annual licensing fee.

No meat is slaughtered in the area, except a few bacon pigs. Meat is obtained chiefly from government controlled abattoirs at Cardiff, Pontypridd and Maesycwmmwr. As there are no inspections of slaughterhouses, the number of visits to butchers' shops has increased to 620.

From these shops the following goods pronounced unfit for human consumption were removed :—

Milk Tins	—	346
Dried Milk (full cream)		16 pkts.
Dried Milk (half cream)		13 pkts.
Ovaltine	—	1 tin
Butter	—	7 lbs.
Cheese	—	118½ lbs.
Imported Beef	—	292 lbs.
Ham	—	18 lbs.
Prem	—	37 tins

Mor	—	—	11 tins
Pork Luncheon Meat (6lb.tin)			38 tins
Ox Tongue (6lb. tin)			5 tins
Pork Luncheon (2½lb.)			50 tins
Corned Beef	—		3 tins
Corned Mutton (6lb.)			27 tins
Lamb Tongue	—		3 tins
Chopped Ham	—		1 tin
Beef Loaf	—	—	5 tins
Brisket Beef	—		1 tin
Stewed Steak	—		1 tin
Rabbit	—	—	3 tins
Salmon	—	—	168 tins
Pilchards	—	—	72 tins
Sardines	—	—	16 tins
Herrings	—	—	5 tins
Soups	—	—	11 tins
Vegetables and Gravy			6 tins
Tomatoes		—	50 tins
Peas	—	—	54 tins
Beans	—	—	23 tins
Salads	—	—	2 tins
Plums	—	—	115 tins
Strawberries		—	12 tins
Peaches	—	—	17 tins
Apples	—	—	39 tins
Chocolate Biscuits	—		18 lbs
Sugar	—	—	23 lbs
Shredded Wheat	—		10 pkts.
Semolina	—	—	140 lbs.
Flour	—	—	360 lbs.
Pancake Mixture	—		20 pkts.
Jams (2 lb. jars)	—		36
Jams (1 lb. jars)	—		26
Brisvite Cattle Food	—		1 cwt.

PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Notifiable Diseases (except Tuberculosis.

Disease according to Notification.	Cases Notified	Admitted to Isolation Hospital	Number of Deaths
Small Pox — —	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever -- —	68	16	Nil
Diphtheria — —	73	73	1
Typhoid & Para Typhoid	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia (Acute Primary and Influenzal) —	46	5	20
Cerebro-Spinal — —	6	6	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas — —	11	1	Nil
Dysentery — —	3	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia —	2	2	Nil
Measles — —	634	5	1
Whooping Cough —	82	1	1
Chicken Pox — —	12	2	Nil

Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Cerebro-Spinal Fever
incidence during the past 17 years

	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Cerebro-Spinal Fever	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1926 —	12	1	29	2	1	Nil
1927 —	35	Nil	152	6	1	Nil
1928 —	69	Nil	76	6	Nil	Nil
1929 —	150	1	135	3	Nil	Nil
1930 —	132	Nil	164	8	Nil	Nil
1931 —	56	Nil	33	1	Nil	Nil
1932 —	111	Nil	70	8	Nil	Nil
1933 —	255	Nil	159	3	Nil	Nil
1934 —	195	1	167	7	Nil	Nil
1935 —	73	Nil	174	12	Nil	Nil
1936 —	49	Nil	122	19	1	1
1937 —	205	Nil	68	1	1	1
1938 —	268	1	65	1	2	2
1939 —	195	Nil	22	3	4	3
1940 —	109	Nil	130	6	26	7
1941 —	32	Nil	104	8	17	4
1942 —	58	Nil	70	9	4	2
1943 —	68	Nil	73	1	6	3

Tuberculosis.

The following table shows the number of new cases, and mortality from Tuberculosis during 1943 :—

Age Periods		New Cases				Deaths			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	—	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	—	1	1	5	4	0	0	1	1
15	—	6	8	3	5	0	0	0	2
25	—	5	4	1	7	1	5	0	0
35	—	5	13	0	1	4	3	0	2
45	—	7	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
55	—	6	3	0	0	6	1	0	0
65	—	5	1	0	2	1	1	0	1
		29	24	9	19	13	10	1	6

Tuberculosis Death Rate

<i>Year</i>	<i>Estimated Population</i>	<i>Deaths from Pul. T. B.</i>	<i>Deaths from Non.-Pul.</i>	Total	<i>Phthisis Death Rate.</i>	<i>T. B., (all forms Rate</i>
1943	32920	23	7	30		
1942	—	21	3	24		
1941	33920	26	3	29	.765	.853
1940	31630	25	9	34	.795	1.142
1939	31990	23	7	30	.713	.938
1938	32180	19	6	25	.594	.781
1937	32570	26	5	28	.291	.859
1936	33370	22	4	26	.659	.779
1935	34150	25	4	29	.756	.846
1934	34612	31	10	41	.895	1.183
1933	35000	30	11	41	.857	1.171
1932	35270	29	7	36	.822	1.021
1931	36120	22	9	31	.609	.856
1930	39380	34	7	41	.863	1.041
1929	39360	27	10	37	.687	.939
1928	39380	46	4	50	1.164	1.260
1927	39970	31	8	39	.750	1.026
1926	40000	34	17	51	.850	1.275
1925	40530	29	10	39	.715	.959
1924	39850	34	11	45	.853	1.129
1923	39000	27	10	37	.691	.949
1922	38520	39	6	45	1.013	1.165
1921	37630	26	9	35	.691	.932

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury of the eyes.

BYE-LAWS

The Council have the following Bye-Laws with respect to :—

The cleansing of Footways			
	and Pavements		7th November, 1894
Nuisances	—	—	8th November, 1894
Common Lodging Houses	—		8th November, 1894
Slaughter Houses	—	—	8th November, 1894
Offensive Trades	—	—	8th November, 1894
Nuisances in connection with the			
Removal of Offensive or Noxious			
	Matters		8th November, 1894
Tents, Vans, etc.	—	—	16 July, 1907
Cemeteries	—	—	27th January, 1930
New Streets and Buildings	—		2nd April, 1930





